

## Message Text

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70/43

ACTION EA-07

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 DPW-01 AID-05 SAJ-01 DRC-01

SR-02 ORM-01 /084 W

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R 090910Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9413

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

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CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

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USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT OCT 2-8, 1974

PART I - SUMMARY

THE LEVEL AND INTENSITY OF MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A GENERALLY LOW RATE THROUGHOUT THE FOUR MILITARY REGIONS THIS WEEK. TWO SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTIONS TO THIS WERE THE APPARENT FALL OF CHUONG NGHIA IN KONTUM PROVINCE IN MR-2, AND THE GVN RECOVERY OF OUTPOST 82 WEST OF BEN CAT IN MR-2. THE LATTER WAS OVERRUN BY THE COMMUNISTS MAY 15, AND HAS BEEN THE GOAL OF PERIODIC HEAVY ASSAULTS BY GVN FORCES SINCE THAT TIME. THE EXPECTED ATTACK ON CHUONG NGHIA WAS LAUNCHED SEPT 30. THE SPECIAL SUBSECTOR CAME UNDER PARTICULARLY HEAVY ARTILLERY AND MORTAR ATTACK AND GROUND ASSAULT OVER THE NEXT FOUR DAYS. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LOSSES HAVE NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED, BUT THEY ARE CONSIDERED TO BE VERY HEAVY SINCE ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF SURVIVORS HAVE BEEN PICKED UP TO DATE. II CORPS HAS NOT OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE LOSS OF CHUONG NGHIA, BUT THE KONTUM PROVINCE CHIEF HAS STATED "IT IS NO MORE." ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS COUNTRY - WIDE WAS DOWN, RVNAF REPORTED CASUALTIES WERE COMPARABLE TO A WEEK AGO. IN MR-1 THE RVNAF REGISTERED SOME SUCCESS IN THE EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF PHU BAI AIRFIELD, BY CAPTURING HILL BONG SOUTH OF THE AIRFIELD OCT 2. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THE OPERATION IS MO TAN MOUNTAIN AND THE NEARBY HIGH GROUND, SOME 14 KMS SSW OF PHU BAI. IN MR-2 THERE WAS A MARKED LESSENING OF THE FIGHTING LEVEL IN THE NORTHERN PART OF BINH DINH PROVINCE MAINLY AS A RESULT OF HEAVY RAINS. RECENT ARVN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NVA/VC HAVE PLANS FOR CONTINUING A HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BINH DINH. COMMUNIST FORCES, AS EXPECTED, ARE MAKING A CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO GATHER RICE IN PHU YEN PROVINCE, INCLUDING THREATS AGAINST CIVILIANS WHICH ARE GENERALLY BEING DISREGARDED. MONTAGNARD DISSIDENT ELEMENTS AND/OR BANDITS CONTINUE TO HARASS

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LOCS IN DARLOC PROVINCE TYING UP THE BULK OF THE SECTOR FORCES IN THE EFFORT TO ACHIEVE ROAD SECURITY. IN MR-3 THE FIGHTING OVER OUTPOST 82 HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT ENDED, SINCE IT SECURES COMMUNIST COMMUNICATIONS ALONG ROUTE 14 IN THE IRON TRIANGLE. COMMUNIST FORCES PERSIST IN EFFORTS TO INTERDICT MAIN LOCS, WITH LONG KHANH TERRITORIAL FORCES CONTINUING TO BE ASSAULTED ALONG ROUTE 20 TO DALAT. TERRORISM CONTINUED IN MR-3 THIS WEEK WITH TWO HAMLET OFFICIALS ASSASSINATED. WITH THE MONTHLY HIGHPOINT, WHICH HAS BECOM

ALMOST A ROUTINE IN THE DELTA, STILL A WEEK AWAY, FIGHTING CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL IN MR-4. DESPITE THIS THERE WERE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS. GIAO DUC DISTRICT TOWN WAS HEAVILY SHELLED (OVER 100 ROUNDS OF MIXED ORDNANCE) WITH OVER 40 CASUALTIES -- MAINLY CIVILIAN. ACTIVITY WAS MARKEDLY HIGHER IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, WHERE A SINGLE OUTPOST IN SOUTHERN GIA RAI UNDERWENT HEAVY SHELLING (ALMOST 100 ROUNDS) AND A GROUND ATTACK, BUT HELD.

END SUMMARY.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

#### PART II - ICCS

THE HUNGARIAN CHAIRMAN FOR THE MONTH HAS SO FAR SCHEDULED NO PLENARIES, AND ACTIVITY IS CENTERED IN THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, A MATTER SCHEDULED TO BE SETTLED BY OCT 31. THE HUNGDEL HAS TAKEN PAINS TO DENY TO EMBOFFS THAT THE HUNGARIANS TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SEPTEMBER FINANCIAL CRISIS BY PUSHING FOR EVACUATION OF TEAM SITES. THE HUNGARIAN AMB STATED THE HUNGARIAN POSITION AS FOLLOWS: THE ICCS, INCLUDING THE HUNGARIANS, SHOULD NOT HAVE DEPLOYED TO THE REGIONS AND TEAM SITES IN FEBRUARY 1973 WITHOUT A SPECIFIC TPJMC ACTION DESIGNATING THE SITES; HOWEVER, HAVING MADE THE LEGAL ERROR OF JOINING THE OTHER DELS IN DEPLOYING ON THE BASIS OF THE ICCS PROTOCOL, THE HUNGARIANS WILL REMAIN DEPLOYED AND NOT WITHDRAW FROM ANY REGIONS OR TEAM SITES UNLESS THEY ARE PHYSICALLY DANGEROUS OR LOGISTICALLY UNSUPPORTABLE.

#### PART III - FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS

A. THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED INTO ITS SIXTEENTH WEEK.

#### B. COMMUNISTS HARP ON "POLITICAL PRISONERS"

ACCORDING TO A HANOI REPORT (FBIS BANGKOK 071707 OCT), THE "PRG" DEL TO THE TPJMC MADE PUBLIC A "MEMORANDUM" AT ITS WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE OCT 5. THE DOCUMENT ALLEGES, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE GVN HOLDS MORE THAN 15,000 COMMUNIST MILITARY PERSONNEL AND 200,000 CIVILIANS WHO EITHER SUPPORT THE COMMUNISTS OR BELONG TO NEITHER SIDE. IN ADDITION, THE MEMORANDUM CHARGES, THE GVN HAS STEPPED UP "NEW ARRESTS", JAILING 50,000 PERSONS FOR DEMANDING "PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY, IMPROVEMENT OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND NATIONAL CONCORD." (COMMENT: THE RENEWED PROPAGANDA

CAMPAIGN ON "POLITICAL PRISONERS" OF WHICH THE "MEMORANDUM" IS  
A PART IS, NO DOUBT, INTENDED TO COINCIDE WITH THE VISIT TO  
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EUROPE BY THREE SELF-STYLED "THIRD FORCE" PERSONALITIES, AND  
ALSO TO FAN THE FLAMES OF ONGOING ANTI-GOVT MOVEMENTS IN THE  
SOUTH. END COMMENT.)

PART 8; - COMMUNIST MEDIA COMMENT.

A. HANOI SLAMS SCHLESINGER "SLANDERS".

THE DRV FONMIN ISSUED A STATEMENT OCT 3 DENOUNCING "SLANDEROUS  
ALLEGATIONS" BY DEFSEC SCHLESINGER AND HIS DEPUTY, WILLIAM  
CLEMENTS, BOTH OF WHOM HAD NOTED HANOI'S NON-OBSERVANCE OF THE PARIS  
AGREEMENT. "THESE SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS," THE STATEMENT AVERRED,  
"ARE AIMED AT MISLEADING PUBLIC OPINION, COVERING UP THE UNITED  
STATES' CONTINUED AND INTENSIFIED MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AND  
INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND PROVIDING  
AN EXCUSE FOR THE GERALD FORD ADMINISTRATION TO INCREASE MILITARY  
AID TO THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION..." THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED WITH  
THE STANDARD BLEAT THAT THE US SHOULD CEASE ITS "MILITARY INVOLVE-  
MENT AND INTERFERENCE" AND END ALL MILITARY AID TO THE GVN.

B. VC EXULTANT OVER CAPTURE OF CHUONG NGHIA. LIBERATION RADIO  
ANNOUNCED THE COMMUNISTS' CAPTURE OF CHUONG NGHIA IN AN OCT 6  
BROADCAST (FBIS SAIGON 061015 OCT). SOME HOURS LATER, THE STATION  
BROADCAST A COMMENTARY ON THE BATTLE (FBIS SAIGON 051354)  
WHICH ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY THE ATTACK ON THE BASIS THAT "THE  
U.S.--THIEU CLIQUE" HAD USED NEARBY MANG DEN BASE AS THE STAGING  
AREA "FOR SWEEPS AND PLUNDERING OPERATIONS." THE VICTORY WAS  
DESCRIBED AS "AN APPROPRIATE PUNITIVE BLOW" TO THE US AND GVN  
AND A "STERN WARNING" THAT THEY WILL "COURT EVEN HEAVIER PUNITIVE  
BLOWS" SHOULD THEY PERSIST IN "PROLONGING THE WAR AND SABOTAGING  
THE PARIS AGREEMENT."

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART V - MR I

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS, THERE WERE 267 COMMUNIST

CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE WEEK, DOWN FROM LAST WEEK'S TOTAL OF 331. SIGNIFICANT GROUND FIGHTING OCCURRED IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE SOUTH OF HUE AND IN DUC DUC DISTRICT OF QUANG NAM. QUANG NGAI AND QUANG TIN SAW ONLY LOW-LEVEL ACTIVITY. GVN CASUALTIES: 120 KIA; 759 WIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE 414 KIA AND 2 RETURNEES. VNAF FLEW 216 COMBAT AIR SORTIES. ON BOTH OCTOBER 1 AND 2, GVN FORCES EXPENDED OVER 7,000 ARTILLERY ROUNDS IN I CORPS, UNUSUALLY HIGH NUMBER FOR THE REGION.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS REPORTED IN QUANG TRI DURING THE WEEK. IN THUA THIEN THE SIGNIFICANT AREA OF CONFLICT WAS SOUTH OF PHU BAI AIRFIELD. ON OCTOBER 2 ELEMENTS OF THE 1ST INFANTRY REGIMENT CAPTURED HILL BONG, AND IN THE PROCESS CLAIMED TO HAVE KILLED 80 NVA/VC (33 BY AIR STRIKE). THIS WAS PART OF A LARGER 1ST DIVISION OPERATION THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF WHICH IS MO TAN MOUNTAIN (14 KILOMETERS SSW OF PHU BAI) AND NEARBY HIGH GROUND. IF THE OPERATION IS SUCCESSFUL, IT SHOULD IMPROVE THE SECURITY OF PHU BAI AIRFIELD WHICH WAS SHELLED TWICE AGAIN DURING THE WEEK.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

ON OCT 3 AND 4, COMMUNIST UNITS HEAVILY SHELLED AND THEN ATTACKED POSITIONS OF THE 56TH INF. REGT. SOUTH OF DUC DUC DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS IN QUANG NAM, DRIVING THE CONTACT LINE BACK ABOUT 3 KILOMETERS. OVER 100 COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED DURING THE FIRST DAY OF ATTACKS; THIRD DIVISION LOSSES HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY REPORTED, BUT THE 56TH INF. REGT. HAS BEEN REPORTEDLY REDUCED TO BELOW 35 PER CENT OF AUTHORIZED STRENGTH.

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4. QUANG TIN WAS QUIET THIS WEEK. QUANG NGAI SAW A LESSENING OF ACTIVITY, BOTH IN GROUND ATTACKS AND ATTACKS BY FIRE.

5. ICCS:

IN REGION I BOTH THE INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN PHU BAI TEAMS CONDUCTED INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATIONS OF THE TPJMC MEETING HALL, DAMAGED IN AN ARTILLERY ATTACK ON PHU BAI AIRBASE ON SEPT. 29. A LETTER FROM THE TPJMC REQUESTING A FORMAL INVESTIGATION OF THE PHU BAI INCIDENTS HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ICCS, BUT THEIR DECISION HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED. IN ICCS REGION II THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS CONDUCTED AN OBSERVATION OF THE SITE OF THE OCTOBER 1 SHELLING OF THE 2ND INFANTRY DIVISION HEADQUARTERS AT CHU LAI.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 6 SAIGON 13046

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VI - MR -2

1. SUMMARY: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE BATTLE FOR CHUONG NGHIA IN KONTUM PROVINCE, THE INTENSITY OF FIGHTING MARKEDLY DIMINISHED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD. SEASONAL RAINS DAMPENED THE ZEAL OF COMBATANTS IN THE NORTHERN SECTOR OF BINH DINH, RECENTLY THIS MILITARY REGION'S MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE. THE ISOLATED GVN SETTLEMENT AND OUTPOST AT CHUONG NGHIA, KONTUM CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK BY ELEMENTS OF THE 28TH REGT, 10TH NVA DIVISION ON SEPT 30 AND WAS APPARENTLY OVERRUN ON OCTOBER 3 ALTHOUGH NO OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT HAS YET BEEN ISSUED BY II CORPS HQS. THE FATE OF THE CAMP'S SURVIVORS HAS NOT AS YET BEEN DETERMINED. INCIDENT TOTALS FOR THIS WEEK REMAINED APPROXIMATELY THE SAME AS LAST WEEK, AT 63 - WITH BINH DINH PROVINCE THE MOST ACTIVE AT 46. COMMUNIST AND GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES DROPPED SLIGHTLY (FIGURES ARE UNAVAILABLE FOR CHUONG NGHIA). THE VC/NVA REPORTEDLY LOST 206 KIA WHILE ARVN HAD 63 KIA. THE USE OF FIXED WING AIR ASSETS ROSE TO 204 TAC AIR AND 171 VISUAL RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS COMPARED TO 137 AND 165 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. HELICOPTER SORTIES DROPPED FROM 1244 TO 920.

2. KONTUM: AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS OF PREPARATION, ELEMENTS OF THE 28TH REGT, 10TH NVA DIVISION, SUPPORTED BY A BATTALION OF THE 40TH ARTY/MORTAR REGT AND LOCAL FORCE UNITS LAUNCHED THE ANTICIPATED ATTACK ON CHUONG NGHIA SPECIAL SUB-SECTOR ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPT 30. CONTACT WAS LOST WITH DEFENDING GOVERNMENT FORCES ON OCT 3. ATTEMPTS TO REINFORCE THE CAMP WITH AN AIR INSERTION OF THE 251ST RF BATTALION WERE TURNED BACK BY INTENSE COMMUNIST GROUND FIRE. RECON/INTEL TEAMS DISPATCHED TO THE VICINITY OF THE OUTPOST WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN DETERMINING THE STATUS OF THE DEFENDING FORCES. EARLIER EFFORTS TO PROVIDE CHUONG NGHIA WITH 175MM ARTILLERY SUPPORT FAILED WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE ATTACK THAT THE ACCESS ROAD (HIGHWAY 5A) WAS IN UNUSABLE CONDITION. ON THE NIGHT OF OCT 6, RADIO CONTACT WAS REESTABLISHED WITH APPROXIMATELY 38 STRAGGLERS, 9 KM TO THE SOUTH OF THE SUB-SECTOR HQS. THESE SURVIVORS HAVE SINCE BEEN EVACUATED.

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ALTHOUGH II CORPS HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE LOSS OF CHUONG NGHIA, THE KONTUM PROVINCE CHIEF, ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 7, TOLD OUR PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE, "IT IS NO MORE".

3. PLEIKU: LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS REPORTED IN THE PROVINCE THIS WEEK. THE FEW INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED INVOLVED SPORADIC VC/NVA SHELLINGS AND SMALL UNIT GROUND ATTACKS DIRECTED AGAINST FSB 711 AND ARVN SECURITY POSITIONS SITUATED ALONG PROVINCIAL ROUTE 509 WEST OF PLEIKU CITY.

4. BINH DINH: HEAVY RAINS CONTRIBUTED TO A SHARP CURTAILMENT IN THE LEVEL OF FIGHTING WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN CONCENTRATED IN TAM QUANG, HOAI NHON, AND PHU MY DISTRICTS ALONG THE NORTHERN COAST. THE BATTLE IN THE BONG-SON AREA HAS DEVELOPED INTO AN ARTILLERY DUEL. THE PRESENCE OF ACCURATE NVA 37MM HOWITZER ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE HAS PREVENTED RVNAF FROM NEUTRALIZING COMMUNIST 105MM FIRE DIRECTED AGAINST BONG-SON TOWN. MANY OF THE CIVILIAN INHABITANTS HAVE FLED THE TOWN; HOWEVER, COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC ON QL-1 WHICH PASSES THROUGH IT HAS NOT BEEN INTERRUPTED. A RECENTLY INFILTRATED VC GUERRILLA FORCE HAS ORDERS TO ATTACK TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY IN MY HEIP AND MY TAI VILLAGES OF PHU MY DISTRICT. ARVN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES INDICATE THAT THE 17TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION IN COORDINATION WITH THE 14TH ENGR BN IN PREPARING TO ATTACK THE BONG LONG AND NHONG PASSES IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNIST OPERATIONS IN EASTERN HOAI NHON.

5. PHU YEN: COMMUNIST FORCES IN PHU YEN ARE MAINTAINING AN ACTIVE PROGRAM OF RICE PURCHASING, TAX COLLECTION "IN KIND" AND EXPROPRIATION IN AN EFFORT TO ATTAIN AGRICULTURAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY. CIVILIAN INHABITANTS IN THE WESTERN PORTION OF THE PROVINCE HAVE BEEN ADMONISHED BY THE VC NOT TO MOVE THEIR RICE TO MORE SECURE STORAGE AREAS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL. OUR PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS THAT THESE WARNINGS ARE GENERALLY DISREGARDED DESPITE THREATS OF REPRISALS. THE NEW PROVINCE CHIEF CONTINUES TO EMPHASIZE AS HIS TWO PRIORITY TASKS, BOLSTERING POPULAR FORCE DEFENSE EFFORTS AND PROTECTING THIS YEAR'S RICE CROP.

6. OTHER: THE BINH THUAN PROVINCE CHIEF HAS ORDERED A NEW MILITARY COMMAND CENTER ESTABLISHED AND ADDITIONAL TERRITORIAL FORCES ASSIGNED TO THE SONG LUY AREA IN RESPONSE TO RECENT ATTACKS  
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BY THE 812TH ("SONG MAO") NVA REGT. ATTACKS ON LOC'S BY MONTAGNARD DISSIDENT ELEMENTS AND/OR BANDITS IN DARLAC HAVE REQUIRED SECTOR TO COMMIT THE BULK OF ITS FORCES TO ROAD SECURITY, LIMITING ITS OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS IN OTHER AREAS.

7. ICCS: NEGATIVE.

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VII - MR III

1. GVN RECOVERY OF OUTPOST 82 WEST OF BEN CAT ON OCT 4 DOMINATED A WEEK OF OTHERWISE CONTINUED LOW LEVEL MILITARY ACTIVITY. GVN HQS CURRENTLY FORESEES NO MAJOR NEW NVA/VC MAIN FORCE CAMPAIGNS UNTIL THE DRY SEASON. TERRORIST ATTACKS, HARASSMENT OF GVN OUTPOSTS, AND STRONG DEFENSE OF NVA/VC POSITIONS IS, HOWEVER, EXPECTED FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.

2. OUTPOST 82 WAS OVERRUN TOGETHER WITH RACH BAP AND AN DIEN ON MAY 15 AND HAS BEEN THE GOAL OF PERIODIC HEAVY ASSAULTS BY GVN FORCES SINCE THAT TIME. THE 9TH NVA DIV IS EXPECTED TO DEFEND STRONGLY THIS LAST STRONG POINT ON LTL 7 SINCE IT SECURES COMMUNIST COMMUNICATIONS ALONG LTL 14 IN THE IRON TRIANGLE.

3. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS THIS WEEK DECLINED FROM LAST WEEK'S 161 TO 151. MR-3 HQS REPORTED 42 GROUND ATTACKS (32 LAST WEEK), 74 ATTACKS BY FIRE (79 LAST WEEK), AND 4 COMBINED GROUND AND ABFS (12 LAST WEEK). THERE WERE 15 MINING INCIDENTS AND 16 OTHER MISCELLANEOUS CLASHES RECORDED. WITH ITS ACTIVITY IN THE BEN CAT AREA, BINH DUONG PROVINCE CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE MILITARY SCENE REPORTING 73 INCIDENTS, ALMOST HALF OF THE REGIONAL TOTAL, COMPARED WITH 88 LAST WEEK. BINH LONG PROVINCE WAS NEXT WITH 15 (COMPARED WITH 7 LAST WEEK), FOLLOWED BY LONG KHANH WITH 13, AND LONG AN AND HAU NGHIA, BOTH WITH 12.

4. COMMUNIST ARTILLERY AND MORTAR FIRINGS DECREASED SLIGHTLY FROM 1,164 ROUNDS LAST PERIOD TO 1,024 THIS WEEK. THERE WAS A MODEST INCREASE IN RVNAF ARTILLERY EXPENDITURES FROM 11,253 TO 12,253 ROUNDS. VNAF FLEW 85 FIXED-WING SORTIES (68 BY A-37S AND 17 BY F-5S). HELICOPTER GUNSHIPS FLEW 95 SUPPORT MISSIONS.

5. GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 57 KIA, 134 WIA, AND 23 MIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE SET AT 17 KIA, 6 CIA, AND 5 RALLIERS. IN ADDITION, VNAF REPORTED 19 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR.

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6. IN BINH LONG PROVINCE COMMUNIST FORCES CONTINUED THEIR SHELLING OF RANGER AND RF POSITIONS LOCATED BOTH SOUTH AND NORTH-EAST OF THE AN LOC PROVINCE CAPITAL. THERE WERE TWO GROUND CLASHES WITH RANGER PATROLS IN CHON THANH DISTRICT RESULTING IN MINOR CASUALTIES.

7. NVA/VC FORCES CONTINUE TO ASSAULT LONG KHANH TERRITORIAL FORCES ALONG ROUTE QL 20 TO DALAT. THE MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT OCCURRED 3 KMS SW OF DINH QUAN DISTRICT CAPITAL ON ROUTE 20 WHEN A ROAD SECURITY UNIT ENCOUNTERED A COMMUNIST AMBUSH ELEMENT RESULTING IN RVNAF LOSSES OF 4 KILLED AND 4 WOUNDED WITH UNKNOWN COMMUNIST CASUALTIES. ANOTHER INCIDENT OCCURRED THE FOLLOWING DAY ON THIS NATIONAL ROUTE WHEN A PSDF PATROL 23 KMS NE OF DINH QUAN DISTRICT HQS CLASHED WITH AN NVA/VC SQUAD RESULTING IN PSDF LOSSES OF 1 KILLED AND 5 WOUNDED AND UNKNOWN COMMUNIST CASUALTIES.

8. THERE WAS A SLIGHT INCREASE IN BOTH MININGS AND MINOR GROUND CONTACTS IN USUALLY TRANQUIL LONG AN PROVINCE. IN HAU NGHIA DURING THE EARLY HOURS OF OCTOBER 8, AN UNKNOWN SIZE NVA/VC FORCE ATTACKED THE DAN HAM 10-MAN OUTPOST OFF ROUTE 237 IN CU CHI. OTHER RF TROOPS WERE RUSHED TO THE AREA AND SECURED THE POSITION AT THE COST OF 6 RF KILLED AND 3 WOUNDED WITH UNKNOWN COMMUNIST CASUALTIES.

9. TERRORISM CONTINUED IN MR-3 DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD. IN LONG AN PROVINCE, THE LOC HAU ASSISTANT HAMLET CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED ON OCT 5 BY AN UNKNOWN VC ELEMENT WHILE RETURNING HOME FROM WORK. IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, PHU HOA DISTRICT, IN THE VILLAGE OF PHU HOA DONG 19 MEMBERS OF THE PSDF REPORTEDLY ASSASSINATED THE PHU MY DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF ON THE NIGHT OF OCT 2 AND DEFECTED TO THE COMMUNIST SIDE.

10. ICCS: THERE WERE NO "OBSERVATIONS" PERFORMED DURING THIS PERIOD BY ANY DELEGATIONS FROM ICCS REGION V.

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ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 NEA-06 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 DPW-01 AID-05 SAJ-01 DRC-01

SR-02 ORM-01 /084 W

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R 090910Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9418

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMCONSUL DANANG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USDEL JEC PARIS  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI  
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI  
CG FMFPAC  
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB  
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER  
COMUSMACHTAI  
USDAO SAIGON  
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USLO PEKING  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 6 OF 6 SAIGON 13046

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART VIII - MR-4

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: FIGHTING IN THE DELTA CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL AS OCTOBER HIGHPOINT IS STILL A WEEK AWAY. ACTIVITY SURGED IN DINH TUONG AND BAC LIEU PROVINCES, BUT REMAINED AT OR BELOW LAST WEEK'S LEVEL ELSEWHERE. DESPITE LOW LEVEL OF ACTIVITY, THERE WERE SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS IN DINH TUONG AND AN XUYEN, MOST SERIOUS OF WHICH WAS HEAVY SHELLING OF GIAO DUC DISTRICT TOWN. CORPS REPORTS 207 INCIDENTS (179 LAST WEEK) INCLUDING 20 GROUND ATTACKS (10), 110 ABF'S (114), 60 HARASSMENTS (37), 3 SABOTAGE (7), AND 14 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (9). GVN LOSSES REMAINED STABLE AT 114 KIA (128), 496 WIA (406), 43 MIA (11) AND NO CREW-SERVED (ONE) AND 108 INDIVIDUAL (65) WEAPONS LOST. DUE LARGELY TO SUCCESSFUL GVN OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN DINH TUONG AND AN XUYEN, REPORTED VC/NVA LOSSES ROSE TO 477 KIA

(305), 16 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (29), AND 11 CREW-SERVED (4) AND 129 INDIVIDUAL (127) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE INCREASED AGAIN AND WAS SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE FIVE WESTERN DISTRICTS. WHILE MOST INCIDENTS WERE HARASSMENTS, ABF'S OR SMALL UNIT CONTACTS, THERE WERE TWO SERIOUS INCIDENTS. FIRST WAS ATTACK ON RF BASE IN EASTERN CAI LAY (D) IN WHICH RF SUFFERED 16 KIA, 15 WIA AND 3 MIA WHILE VC/NVA CASUALTIES WERE 25 KIA. SUBSEQUENT RF RELIEF OPERATION RESULTED IN 18 MORE VC/NVA KIA WITH NO GVN CASUALTIES REPORTED. BASE IS NEAR INTERSECTION OF TWO PROVINCIAL ROADS. SECOND INCIDENT WAS SHELLING OF GIAO DUC DISTRICT TOWN (60X120MM, 15X107MM, AND 40X82MM) IN WHICH 12 CIVILIANS AND ONE RF WERE KILLED AND 27 CIVILIANS AND 2 RF WOUNDED. SITUATION IN KIEN PHONG PROVINCE WAS QUIET ENOUGH TO ALLOW COMPLETION OF REPAIRS TO CA LO BRIDGE ON ROUTE 30 RESTORING THE NORMAL RESUPPLY ROUTE TO KIEN VAN (D). ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, THERE WERE SCATTERED ABF'S AND HARASSMENTS AGAINST OP'S MOSTLY IN HONG NGU, KIEN VAN, AND MY AN DISTRICTS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO FACILITATE MOVEMENT OF SUPPLIES INTO AND THROUGH THE PROVINCE. CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST ACTIVITY IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE INVOLVED MININGS, SNIPINGS, AND KIDNAPPINGS ON ROUTE 29 AND MAJOR CANALS, AND THE DIGGING OF TWO LARGE TRENCHES ACROSS THE PROVINCIAL ROAD FROM MOC HOA TO NHON HOA (V). THE LATTER TEMPORARILY INTERRUPTED SURFACE RESUPPLY TO AN ARTILLERY BASE AND TWO 10TH REGIMENT BATTALIONS IN NHON HOA. IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE, BA CHUC (V) CAME UNDER MORTAR FIRE BELIEVED TO HAVE ORIGINATED FROM THE LOWER SLOPES OF GIAI MOUNTAIN. RVNAF HAS OCCUPIED THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN SINCE LATE LAST YEAR, BUT VC/NVA UNITS WERE KNOWN TO BE OPERATING AROUND THE BASE. UNTIL THIS WEEK, THEY HAVE AVOIDED DRAWING ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: KIEN HOA PROVINCE REMAINS QUIET, BUT BEN TRE, THE PROVINCE CAPITAL, WAS SHELLED TWICE (TOTAL 12X82MM) WOUNDING 5 RF AND ONE CIVILIAN. A PF PLATOON ON PATROL IN SOUTHERN GION TROM (D) SUFFERED 2 KIA, ONE WIA, AND 11 MIA IN A CLASH WITH A VC COMPANY. IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, VC/NVA CONTINUED PRESSURE ON GVN OP'S, OVERRUNNING TWO IN TRA CU (D) AND ONE IN CAU NGANG (D). SEVERAL INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN CANG LONG (D) AS RESULT OF GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS; IN ONE OF THESE, 9 VC/NVA WERE KILLED IN A GVN AMBUSH. SA DEC PROVINCE REMAINED QUIET, BUT VC/NVA FIRED B-40 AND M-79 INTO AN KHANH (V) OFFICE, DUC TON (D) IN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE QUANG TIN (P) REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN IN TEMPORARY RESETTLEMENT CAMPS NEAR THE VILLAGE OFFICE SINCE JULY. IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, FIVE VILLAGE HQ WERE SHELLED, BUT WITH MINOR EFFECT. RF, PF AND PSDF UNITS OPERATING ALONG INFILTRATION ROUTE 1C IN AREA OF GVN ROUTE 80 REPORT SEVERAL SMALL CONTACTS WITH NO SIGNIFICANT RESULT.

PHONG DINH PROVINCE HAD ITS QUIETEST WEEK IN MONTHS, BUT ONE INCIDENT WAS OF POLITICAL INTEREST: A GRENADE EXPLODED IN A HOA HAO TEMPLE IN PHONG DIEN (D) KILLING A HOA HAO LEADER.

(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE, TWO OP'S IN HOA TU (D) WERE ABANDONED OR OVERRUN WITH LIGHT GVN CASUALTIES. BOTH ARE ALONG THE MY THANH RIVER, A PRIMARY VC/NVA TARGET FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. TWO OTHER OP'S IN KE SACH (D) WERE OVERRUN OR ABANDONED, ONE WITH NO GVN CASUALTIES, BUT THE OTHER WITH 5 PF KIA, ONE WIA AND 4 MIA. ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY, WITH VC/NVA ATTENTION DIRECTED AGAINST A SINGLE OP IN SOUTHERN GIA RAI (D). THE OP HELD DESPITE A GROUND ATTACK AND 5 ABF'S TOTALLING ALMOST 100 ROUNDS. AN APC  
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GROUP AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 31ST REGIMENT HAVE MOVED TO VINH HUNG (V), GIA RAI (D), WHERE THE SECURITY SITUATION HAS BEEN GRADUALLY DETERIORATING. MOST OF THE POPULACE HAS LEFT THE VILLAGE. IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, GVN TROOPS WITHDRAWN FROM OP'S IN THE SOUTHERN U MINH IN LATE SEPTEMBER HAVE BEEN REDEPLOYED WEST OF THOI BINH DISTRICT TOWN WHERE THEY KILLED 41 VC/NVA WHILE SUFFERING ONLY TWO WOUNDED IN TWO SEPARATE ENGAGEMENTS. COMBINED ARVN AND RF OPERATIONS ARE ALSO BEING CONDUCTED IN TAN LOC (V), QUANG LONG (D), BUT HAVE NOT YET PRODUCED SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN REMAINED LIGHT, BUT VI THANH AIRFIELD RECEIVED ONE 107MM ROCKET, THE FIRST SUCH INCIDENT IN SEVERAL WEEKS; IT CAUSED NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE.

2. ICCS AFFAIRS: (A) REGION VI INDODEL AND IRANDEL EXPECTED TO CONDUCT "OBSERVATION" OF GIAO DUC SHELLING (SEE PARA 1AB) AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 8. "OBSERVATION" WAS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 7, BUT WAS POSTPONED FOR UNDISCLOSED REASON. (B) REGION VII HUNGDEL HAS BEGUN ROTATION OF MEMBERS. NEW DEPUTY DELCHIEF ARRIVED LAST WEEK, AND OTHER MEMBERS EXPECT TO BE ROTATED WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH.  
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